



Flooding Safety

Be aware of flood hazards no matter where you live or work, but especially if you are in low-lying areas or near water. Even very small streams, gullies, creeks, culverts, dry streambeds or low lying ground that appear harmless in dry weather can flood. Stay away from floodwaters. If you come upon a flowing stream where water is above your ankles, stop, turn around and go another way. Six inches of swiftly moving water can sweep you off of your feet. You can take steps to prepare for these types of emergencies.

Know what to expect:

- Know your area's flood risk
- If it has been raining hard for several hours, or steadily raining for several days, be alert to the possibility of a flood
- Listen to local radio or TV stations for flood information
- Floods can take several hours to days to develop - A flood WATCH means a flood is possible in your area. A flood WARNING means flooding is already occurring or will occur soon in your area.
- Flash floods can take only a few minutes to a few hours to develop

Prepare a Family Disaster Plan:

- Check your homeowner's or renters insurance to see if it covers flooding. If not, find out how to get flood insurance.
- Keep insurance policies, documents, and other valuables in a safe-deposit box.
- Assemble a **Disaster Supplies Kit**.
- Identify where you could go if told to evacuate. Choose several places... a friend's home in another town, a motel, or a shelter.

When a **flood WATCH** is issued...

- Move your furniture and valuables to higher floors of your home.
- Fill your car's gas tank, in case an evacuation notice is issued.

When a **flood WARNING** is issued...

- Listen to local radio and TV stations for information and advice. If told to evacuate, do so as soon as possible.

When a **flash flood WATCH** is issued...

- Be alert to signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moments' notice.

When a **flash flood WARNING** is issued...

- Or if you think it has already started, evacuate immediately. You may have only seconds to escape. Act quickly!
- Move to higher ground away from rivers, streams, creeks, and storm drains. Do not drive around barricades... they are there for your safety.
- If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.
- Keep children out of the water. They are curious and often lack judgment about running water or contaminated water.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood danger.